

Scout soybeans for podworms

NEWARK, Del — Welcome rain the last week of August came too late to help much of Delaware's drought-stricken corn crop, but it did give a hopeful boost to soybeans. Now growers have something else to worry about—the threat of a podworm outbreak in their beans.

Both earworm and fall armyworm populations are reported

to be higher than last year in Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina, says University of Delaware extension entomologist Mark Graustein. And he says considerable numbers of moths have been found in black light traps in Delaware.

He advises growers to scout soybean fields promptly because the worms can do the most harm

right now, during pod fill. "Damaged pods aren't likely to develop fully," Graustein says. "In fact, they often dry and drop off."

He recommends checking a minimum of 3 feet of row in at least five places in each field (10 places is preferred). Tap stalks sharply several times to dislodge any worms present. Then check the ground around the base of each

plant as well as between rows.

"Don't assume the big worms you see are the only ones there," he says. "Look carefully for small ones, too. If you count them now, you may be able to detect a potentially serious problem and come back a week later to check again."

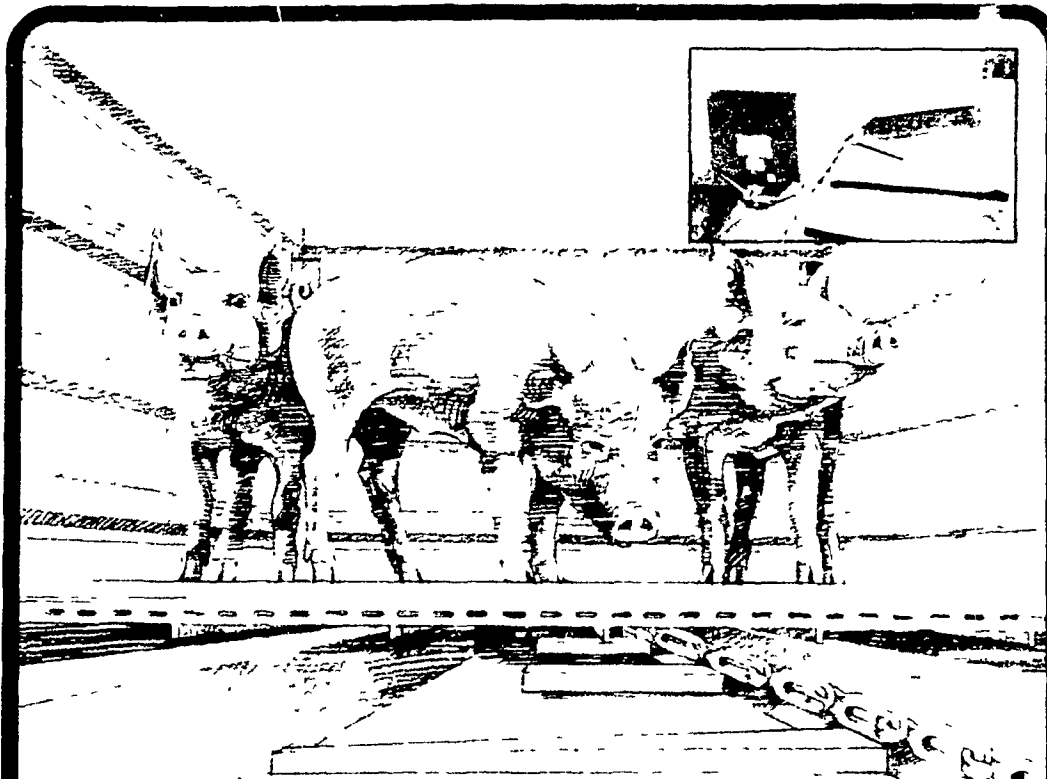
"You'll probably see a lot of cabbage loopers and green clover worms which are not pod feeders. The clover worms wiggle and jump rapidly when touched," the specialist says. "Don't confuse these with the podworms, which will vary in color from yellow to pink, green or brown and in general have dark and light striped bodies. The larger ones also will have dark spots. Earworms generally have an amber colored

head, whereas the fall armyworm has a dark head with a light inverted "Y" on the front."

Wide row soybeans are most likely to be infested. For rows 20 inches or wider the threshold is an average of three worms per 3 feet of row, or one per foot.

In narrower rows, the threshold is 1 to 1 1/2 worms per 3 feet of row, depending on podset. "These thresholds should be adjusted downward where pod set is poor because of heat-induced blossom drop," Graustein says.

Where treatment is necessary, spray with one of the following insecticides according to label directions. Ambush, Lannate-LV, Orthene, PennCap-M, Pounce or Pydrin.



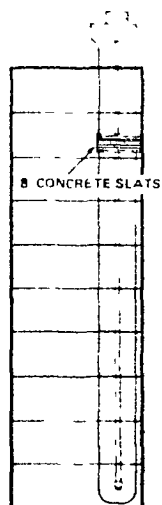
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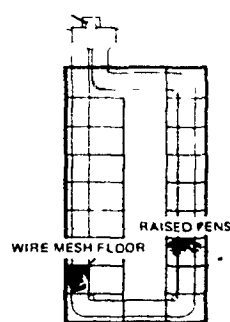
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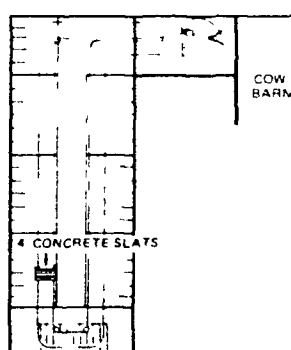
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